

Huntsucker. Liam is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Liam has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Liam has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Liam has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Liam scraped and spray painted fire hydrants in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Liam Andrew Huntsucker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on March 15, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NO on Roll Call Number 118.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RECREATION NOT RED-TAPE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague in the Senate and fellow Oregonian Senator RON WYDEN, I am pleased to introduce the Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act. This bill helps to support and promote sustainable outdoor recreation on public lands by removing barriers to access and making recreation more of a priority for federal land managers.

In Oregon and across the country, an increasing number of Americans enjoy recreating outdoors. In fact, at least two thirds of Oregonians participate in outdoor recreation each year. Recently, I joined Senator WYDEN for a portion of his tour of Oregon's Seven Wonders—some of our state's most treasured outdoor recreation destinations—and we heard from dozens of Oregonians about how important open spaces, trails, and recreation areas are to individuals, families, businesses, and communities. From the magnificent Columbia River Gorge to lesser known trails and creeks throughout our forests, canyons, and deserts, having access to these places for hiking, nature-watching, biking, and other activities is good for our souls and for our economy.

Outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands in Oregon and nationwide support healthy communities, create jobs, generate tax revenue, and support a high quality of life. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, Americans spend \$646 billion per year on outdoor recreation gear, vehicles, trips, and more. In Oregon, outdoor recreation generates over \$12 billion in consumer spending, tens of

thousands of jobs, and \$4 billion in wages and salaries. Not only that, but supporting sustainable outdoor recreation on public lands can also help protect important ecological, watershed, and fish and wildlife values that underpin high quality recreation experiences.

While public lands are open to all Americans, unfortunately sometimes it's not as easy as it should be to enjoy the great outdoors. Recreation permitting can involve confusing, complicated, and lengthy processes, and federal land managers need support in maintaining trails to facilitate use. We need to prioritize sustainable outdoor recreation for the important, powerful role that it plays in our economy, in our communities, and in our environment.

This bill helps to promote and support sustainable outdoor recreation on public lands by simplifying recreation special use permitting, facilitating access for our youth, seniors, and veterans, prioritizing maintenance of trails through collaborative partnerships, making environmentally responsible outdoor recreation a priority for land management agencies, and more. These changes will help get more people outside to enjoy our environment, nurturing our important bond with the natural world. The next step will be to complement these efforts by continuing to conserve and protect the special places that provide us with recreation opportunities, so that those opportunities can be available for generations to come.

GOVERNMENT OF KAZAKHSTAN'S COMMITMENT TO NUCLEAR NON- PROLIFERATION

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Kazakhstan has been tireless in its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation. The steadfastness their government has shown in this area is a key part of our bilateral relationship and a clear example of Kazakhstan's leadership to the global community. This issue is particularly timely as the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev will be participating in the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC on March 31st and April 1st.

President Nazarbayev's efforts to lead Kazakhstan to unilaterally surrender its nuclear stockpile under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program were historic and helped to create today's non-proliferation framework. More recently, Kazakhstan together with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other outside partners established the world's first Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU) Fuel Bank. This Fuel Bank, which Kazakhstan has committed to support through facilities and resources as the host nation, provides a secondary market for LEU to guarantee that all nations have an energy source for peaceful civilian nuclear power—and as importantly—have no reason to develop nuclear enrichment technologies of their own.

Additionally, Kazakhstan is preparing to host an international exposition in the city of Astana next year titled, Expo 2017. The theme will be "future energy" and include contributions from national governments, non-governmental orga-

nizations and private companies on how mankind can provide the power to support ever increasing levels of human development.

Lastly, this year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence after the Soviet Union and the start of bilateral relations with the United States. We mark this occasion in celebration of what has been achieved and note the areas where we can seek progress. The U.S. commitment to Kazakhstan and the region will continue to endure and taking steps such as repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik restrictions will help to maintain the strong relationship. As we mark this occasion I look forward to a bright future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 124, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea. On Roll Call 118, I would like to be recorded as voting No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 16, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Numbers 124, 125, and 126.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT CONNER CHAPPELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Conner Chappell of Van Meter, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Conner cleaned the hiking trails and painted the shelter ceiling at Trindle Park in Van Meter. The work ethic Conner displayed all throughout his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Conner